

Appendix A

West Virginia State Profile

Brief History

State History

People have lived in West Virginia for about 12,500 years, the earliest being the Paleo-Indians. Other native American cultures inhabited the area, but by the time the first European settlers arrived, all the Native American villages were gone, and the area was a hunting ground used by many tribes (including the Shawnee, Cherokee, Delaware, and Iroquois). The first white settlement of what is now West Virginia was probably at Mecklenburg (now Shepherdstown) in 1727. In 1731 Morgan Morgan established the first permanent white settlement on Mill Creek in present-day Berkeley County.

West Virginia shares its history with Virginia from 1607 until Virginia seceded from the Union in 1861. Delegates representing western counties formed their own government, which was granted statehood in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln after conditions had been met requiring the gradual emancipation of slaves. West Virginia is the only state to be designated by presidential proclamation. In 1915, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that in forming a separate state, West Virginia owed more than \$12 million for “a just proportion of the public debt of the Commonwealth of Virginia.” A check was delivered in 1919, and bonds paid off the remainder in 1939.

West Virginia was a battleground during the Civil War. Although Confederates were unable to control significant regions of western Virginia for considerable periods of time during the war, they were successful in conducting destructive raids. The Eastern Panhandle saw continual fighting. Although it was not originally a part of West Virginia, it was annexed in 1863 because it contained the strategically important Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The divisions caused by the Civil War lasted long afterward. These were usually fought out in political arenas but occasionally developed into violence.

1882 saw the beginning of the now famous Hatfield-McCoy feud along the border region between West Virginia and Kentucky. The feud included many killings, involving the governors of both states in lengthy and heated controversy. The bloodshed of the West Virginia Hatfields and the Kentucky McCoys ended in 1896.

Although coal was discovered on the Coal River in 1742, the growth of the railroads in the second half of the 1800s provided an economical method of transporting quantities of, not only coal, but other available natural resources in West Virginia.

Rapid industrial expansion began after the Civil War, attracting thousands of European immigrants and African Americans into the area. However, it was accompanied by serious labor problems, particularly in coal mines where wages were low and working conditions were dangerous. Mine owners bitterly resisted unionization. Strikes were often associated with serious and extended violence during the late 19th Century and the early 20th Century. Miners' strikes between 1912 and 1921 required the intervention of state and federal troops to quell the violence. Unionization grew after the Great Depression as a result of reforms. The state's chemical industry was founded during World War I when German chemicals were no longer available and was expanded during World War II. Both wars also brought unprecedented boom periods to the mining and steel industries in West Virginia.

Economic conditions improved during the 1960s as federal aid poured into the state and massive efforts were made to attract new industry. In the 1970s, West Virginia's coal-based economy flourished as energy prices rose dramatically; but West Virginia suffered through one of the worst economic periods in its history in the 1980s when energy prices fell.

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Capital City

When West Virginia became a state in 1863, the capital was located in Wheeling.

The State Legislature designated Charleston as the capital city in 1870. Kanawha County citizens provided a boat to move all state records to their new home in Charleston.

In 1875, the Legislature voted to return the capital to Wheeling. Although state officials boarded steamers on May 21 to journey to Wheeling, state archives and records did not arrive until late September, causing state government to be at a standstill for four months.

In 1877, the Legislature decided that the citizens would choose between Charleston, Martinsburg, and Clarksburg for a permanent capital location. As a result of the election, it was proclaimed that eight years hence, Charleston would be the government's permanent seat, and state officials again boarded a boat to move from Wheeling to Charleston, towing a barge containing the State records, papers, and library.

Capitol Building

The new capitol opened in May 1885 and served until its destruction by fire on January 3, 1921. For the next six years West Virginia state government was run from a "pasteboard capitol," a temporary structure built hastily in the wake of the fire. Although this structure was also destroyed by fire in 1927, the present capitol was already under construction on the north bank of the Kanawha River.

This new building, designed by Cass Gilbert, was completed in 1932 at a cost of \$10 million. In 1912, Gilbert had designed the world's first skyscraper, the Woolworth Building in New York City. His other works include the state capitols of Arkansas and Minnesota, and the U.S. Treasury Building and the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C.

Two-thirds of the capitol interior is made of four different kinds of marble. The rotunda section and two wings provide 535,000 square feet of floor space and house 333 rooms. The exterior of the capitol, built in the classical style, is of buff Indiana limestone. The 293 foot gold dome atop the structure is five feet higher than the dome of the U.S. Capitol and in 1988 was totally gilded in 14 karat gold leaf applied to the copper and lead roof in tiny 3 3/8 inch squares. After undergoing structural repairs, the dome was restored in the fall of 2005 to Gilbert's original two-tone concept of lead gray paint and gold leaf details.

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K-12 Education



The West Virginia Board of Education and the Department of Education have embarked on a great 21st century adventure. Yesterday's three R's—reading, writing, and arithmetic—now must incorporate today's three R's—rigor, relevance, and relationships.

West Virginia is committed to closing the gap between the knowledge and skills students learn in school and the knowledge and skills they need for the 21st century work place. An emphasis must be placed on math, science, English, and languages. Equally so, an emphasis must be placed on global awareness, civics, business, finance, economics, and problem solving and analytical skills. As the world becomes more competitive and complex, the nation's future depends on the education of the young people.

In 2007, West Virginia has 420 public elementary schools and 321 public secondary schools staffed by 24,554 professional personnel and 13,856 service personnel. In addition, there are 4,283 home schools and 140 church related and other schools teaching 6,258 and 13,470 students, respectively.

Public School Enrollment Grades PK-12* **Academic Years 1997-98 through 2007-08**

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Elementary	161,231	159,806	157,972	156,975	155,635	155,144	153,616	152,470	152,969	154,479	155,830
Secondary	140,083	136,753	132,972	128,810	126,597	126,447	126,945	126,987	126,819	126,818	125,903
Total All Grades	301,314	296,559	290,944	285,785	282,232	281,591	280,561	279,457	279,788**	281,297	281,733

* Preschool enrollment for Academic Year 2006-07 is 22,008.

** Kindergarten has been added to Academic Year 2006-07.

Educational Attainment by State: 1990 to 2006

State	1990 (percent)			1998 (percent)		2000 (percent)		2006 (percent)	
	Not a high school graduate	High school graduate or more	Bachelor's degree or more	High school graduate or more	Bachelor's degree or more	High school graduate or more	Bachelor's degree or more	High school graduate or more	Bachelor's degree or more
United States	24.8	75.2	20.3	82.8	24.4	84.1	25.6	85.5	28.0
West Virginia	34.0	66.0	12.3	76.4	16.3	77.1	15.3	81.5	15.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population, CPH-L-96, and Current Population Report P20-550 and earlier reports and data published on the Internet. See Internet site <<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>>.

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Higher Education

West Virginia Public Colleges and Universities

	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-01</u>	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
Enrollment (FTE)	61,028	61,477	61,394	62,877	64,965	66,993	68,657	69,847	71,173	71,252
Age 25 or Older Undergraduate Enrollment										
	16,877	16,957	16,391	16,852	17,190	17,668	18,236	18,828	19,027	18,864
Percent Undergraduate 25 & above										
	26%	26%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	26%	26%	25%

Public and Independent Colleges and Universities

	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-01</u>	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>
Total certificates and degrees awarded									
	14,054	14,031	14,189	14,323	15,176	15,498	16,425	16,781	17,415
Certificates and associate's degrees									
	2,589	2,501	2,440	2,460	2,703	2,843	3,437	3,289	3,524
Bachelor's degrees									
	8,258	8,474	8,537	9,032	9,324	9,167	9,535	9,931	10,239

WV ACT composite scores by all test takers

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
20.3	20.3	20.1	20.3	20.6

West Virginia Independent Colleges and Universities

This information is group data for the nine private, not-for-profit higher education institutions in West Virginia, including Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, Appalachian Bible College in Bradley, Bethany College in Bethany, Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, Mountain State University in Beckley, Ohio Valley University in Vienna, University of Charleston in Charleston, West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, and Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling.

Enrollment Data

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
Enrollment	9,509	10,441	10,969	10,917	10,813	10,656	11,137

In-State Students Attending a West Virginia Independent College or University

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
In-state students	6,916	6,710	6,478	6,102	6,212
In-state students	60%	58%	60%	64%	61%

First Generation College Students Attending a West Virginia Independent College or University

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
First generation students	38%	40%	39%	31%

Number of Graduates from a West Virginia Independent College or University

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>
Total graduates	2,236	2,220	2,264	2,555	2,648

Healthcare

There are approximately 3,500 practicing physicians in West Virginia, as well as 22,000 active registered nurses, 73 hospitals and medical centers, 34 primary care centers with 118 satellites for a total of 152 clinical sites, 47 school-based health center sites, and 49 local boards of health serving all 55 counties. There are nine free primary care clinics, and residents can access services in 54 county offices of the Department of Health and Human Resources.

Infant Mortality for West Virginia and the U.S.

(Number and Rate per 1,000 Live Births)

	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>(Preliminary)</u> <u>2006</u>
West Virginia	7.6	7.6	7.3	9.1	7.3	7.6	8.1	7.6
United States	7.5	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	N/A

Comparing West Virginia to Other States

	<u>WV</u> <u>Average</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>U.S.</u> <u>Average</u>
Hospital Admissions (per 1,000 Population)			
2005	161	2	119
2004	164	2	119
2003	163	2	120
2002	163	2	120
2001	162	2	119
Hospital Outpatient Visits (per 1,000 Population)			
2005	3,371	3	1,971
2004	3,335	2	1,946
2003	3,178	3	1,936
2002	3,150	2	1,932
2001	3,198	2	1,888
Hospital Emergency Room Visits (per 1,000 Population)			
2005	642	1	387
2004	624	2	383
2003	614	2	382
2002	610	2	382
2001	587	2	372
Total Healthcare Employment as a Percent of Total Employment			
2005	10.20%	1	7.80%

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Transportation



Aviation

There are 35 public-use airports in the state; seven airports have commercial air service. Air transportation is an integral part of the state's and the nation's transportation system. West Virginia has a rich aviation history and a growing aerospace industry. In West Virginia, aviation represents over \$3.5 billion of the state's gross domestic product and employs over 55,000 people.



Roads

Of the 39,276 miles of public roads in West Virginia, 36,311 miles are on the state highway system, along with 6,716 bridges of which 4,548 are 100 feet or less. West Virginia has one All-American Road plus five nationally designated scenic byways; the Coal Heritage Trail, the Highland Scenic Highway, Washington Heritage Trail, the Midland Trail, and the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike.



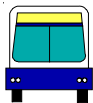
Drivers

The Division of Motor Vehicles provides 23 regional offices in West Virginia with two remote testing sites. The number of individual drivers' licenses issued as a Class E-Regular or Class D or CDL licenses is 1,289,972. West Virginia's seat belt usage rate for 2007 was 89.5%, while the national average was 82%.



Public Ports

West Virginia is home to over 400 miles of navigable waterways. The Port of Huntington Tri-State, 199 miles in length, is the largest statistic inland port in America as well as the fourth largest port for tonnage. There are over 300 private industrial facilities located along West Virginia waterways that depend on the low cost advantages of river borne commerce. An inland container port being developed in Prichard (Wayne County) will be one of the first of its kind located in the heart of Appalachia.



Public Transportation

The Division of Public Transit oversees 18 transit systems that employ 496 full-time and 120 part-time workers. The buses traveled 10,147,874 miles and carried 5,412,079 passengers of which 1,172,428 were elderly or disabled.



Railroads

Route miles of railroad operated within West Virginia totaled 2,264 miles at the end of 2005—80 miles of freight lines were owned by the State.

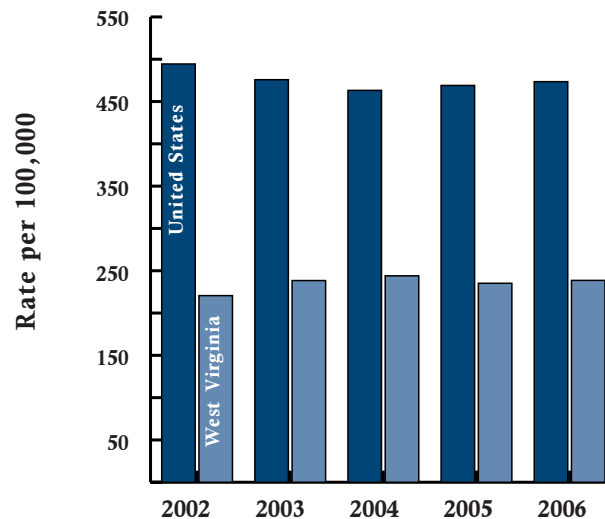
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Law Enforcement

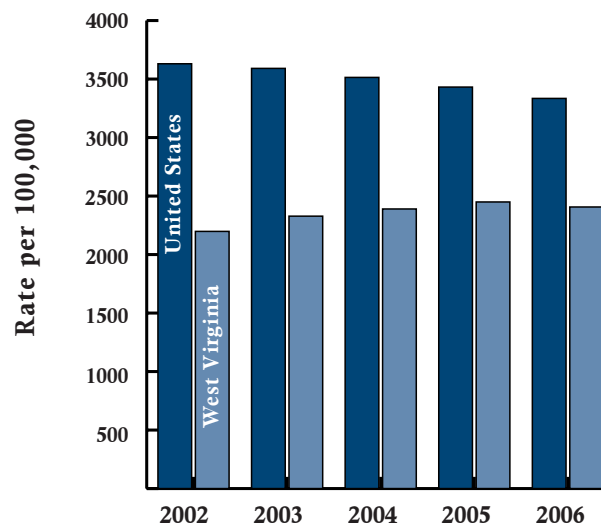


In 2007, there were 183 municipal law enforcement agencies in West Virginia plus the State Police with 62 detachments, DNR with 55 detachments, 55 sheriff's departments, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and 12 higher education campuses with full police powers. There were 3,106 full-time sworn law enforcement officers—3,014 men and 92 women (including 30 officers with the Fire Marshal's Office); since at least 2000, there has been an average of 1.7 for each 1,000 inhabitants.

U.S. and West Virginia Violent Crime Rates, 2002-2006



U.S. and West Virginia Property Crime Rates, 2002-2006



Notes: The crime of arson is excluded from the West Virginia property crime rate due to the absence of a national comparison. The FBI does not provide estimates of arson offenses in the calculation of the property crime totals.

Fire Services



West Virginia has 447 fire departments—419 of these are volunteer fire departments, 12 career departments (fully paid), and 16 are a combination of paid and volunteer. There are approximately 11,147 firefighters—870 paid and 10,277 volunteers.

Many of these fire service personnel make up six distinct regional response teams which are situated throughout the state, under the leadership of the state fire marshal. The regional response teams are comprised of trained members of public safety groups (fire, EMS, law enforcement, etc.) and the private sector for the purpose of mitigating actual or suspected hazardous materials incidents, weapons of mass destruction, and other emergencies across West Virginia.

Fire service members and other emergency services groups are also grouped into eight swift-water rescue teams deployed by the State Fire Marshal (under the authority of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety) during disasters involving flooding, water rescue, and water-related fatalities, etc.

Between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007, there were 79 fire fatalities across West Virginia, and 85 adults and 76 juveniles were arrested for arson. The State Fire Marshall's Office investigated 1,044 fires.

From 2001 through 2007, fire related incidents totaled 44,125; of these, mutual aid was given at 19,148 incidents.

<u>Incident type</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Total Dollar Loss</u>
Building fires	8,083	\$315,202,846
Structure fire, other (conversion only)	6,970	\$677,142,954
Passenger vehicle fire	4,281	\$17,318,941
Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	3,763	\$528,255,319
Natural vegetation fire, other	2,629	\$528,305
Fire in mobile home used as fixed residence	1,328	\$17,878,674

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Recreation and Culture

Tourism remains a growing sector of the state's economy, and a wealth of recreational and cultural opportunities is available. West Virginia, the third most heavily forested state in the nation, abounds with scenic natural beauty and outdoor sports and activities. People, locally and from around the world, come to enjoy skiing, whitewater rafting, camping, RVing, hiking, hunting, fishing, wildlife, photography, birding, all-terrain vehicle riding and biking. Visitors also can tour numerous historic sites, journey into an underground coal mine, visit the world's largest moveable radio telescope, spy bald eagles in their natural habitats, and purchase and enjoy West Virginian crafts, art and cuisine.

From rustic Civilian Conservation Corps era areas with little development to massive modern resorts; from restored logging railroads and company towns to Civil War battlefields; from natural areas with national significance to areas that are primarily day-use local recreational facilities; West Virginia state parks, forests, and wildlife management areas offer tremendous variety. West Virginia has 34 state parks, recreational facilities on nine state forests, and four wildlife management areas. Although there are hundreds of miles of walking and biking trails throughout the state parks system, only two rail trails are under their jurisdiction—the Greenbrier River Trail and the North Bend Rail Trail.

West Virginia is steeped in history, as reflected by having more than 20,000 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Over one thousand roadside markers have been erected in the state as part of the highway historical marker program that began in 1937.

The state is also home to 173 public libraries, 27 academic libraries, and 44 specialty libraries (of which 27 are open to the public). The public libraries contain 5,431,276 items in print, audio, video, and electronic format and provide public Internet access and access to at least ten on-line databases. Each of the ten databases may include thousands of individual titles available to library users. Last fiscal year, West Virginians visited their public libraries 5,905,309 times, borrowed 7,541,517 items, and used library electronic resources 1,402,723 times. The growth in the use of electronic resources has not diminished the use of traditional library resources since both circulation and electronic use are increasing.

Nearly 23,000 patrons of the Archives and History Library, one of the specialty libraries, were served as visitors and by letter and e-mail requests, reference calls, and other means. The library houses 157,845 books, pamphlets, microforms, audio-visual materials, and state documents, and the archives contains over 250,000 photographic images; 11,805 linear feet of manuscripts and state government records, 75,035 16mm films (from news media as well as from other collections), 25,000 architectural drawings, and 860 cubic feet of special collections.

The state is home to more than 200 historic sites and museums. In 2007 (up to December 20), 75,000 people visited the Cultural Center located on the Capitol Complex in Charleston.

Construction begins January 2, 2008 for the renovation of the West Virginia State Museum located in the Cultural Center. The museum will be housed in 23,000 square feet and have an estimated opening in Spring 2009.

The Cultural Center hosts many exhibits, performances and lectures. It is home to the Collegiate Series, the West Virginia Dance Festival, the Juried Quilt Exhibit and much, much more.

The annual Vandalia Gathering, scheduled over the Memorial Day weekend, attracts hundreds of old-time musicians and music lovers inside and outside the state. Often referred to as a state "family reunion," The Vandalia Gathering brings young performers and veteran musicians together to play for this annual festival. West Virginia hospitality is on display with food, crafts, and the sounds of great traditional music.

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West Virginia has a rich heritage in music and arts, from traditional Appalachian dance and bluegrass music, to some of the country's top performers and most fantastic performance halls. The 240,000 square-foot Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences of West Virginia in downtown Charleston houses the performing arts, visual arts, and the sciences under one roof—one of the few centers of its kind in the country. The facility is home to the Avampato Discovery Museum and the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra. The West Virginia Symphony is the state's premiere orchestra, offering a symphonic series, a pop series, special events series, opera and ballet, touring concerts, and the Montclair String Quartet. The other two symphony orchestras in the state are in Huntington and Wheeling.

A production of West Virginia Public Broadcasting, *Mountain Stage* is a series of two-hour specials that presents acts ranging from traditional roots and country music to avant garde rock and jazz. In addition to showcasing both established and emerging artists from the United States, *Mountain Stage* has featured artists from all over the world. The radio show is recorded before a live audience at the state Cultural Center on Charleston's capitol complex. Now in its 20th year, the show has a long tradition of featuring national and international acts in almost every style of music.

For 70 years, the Marshall Artists Series has brought some of the nation's finest performers to Huntington and the luxurious vaudeville-era Keith-Albee Theatre. It is the oldest continuous live arts presentation program in the country. The theater itself is a showpiece that was second only in size to New York's Roxy theater when it was built in 1928. Today it is restored to its original glory and operated as a performing arts center.

One of the many festivals and fairs scheduled throughout West Virginia, the Augusta Heritage Festival (planned annually the second weekend in August) brings together Cajun, Creole, guitar, blues, swing, Irish, bluegrass, folk arts, old-time, vocal and traditional music and dance, artists and crafts exhibitors, storytellers, singers, dancers, and more.

The Appalachian String Band Festival (Camp Washington Carver) attracted 2,891 campers and day-trippers and continues to grow. This must attend event brings a wide range of performers from West Virginia, across the country and around the world. This week-long family event held in late July is packed with individual and group performances, flatfoot dancing and fun contests.

Major Points of Interest

- ✓ **Appalachian Power Park** — Charleston is home to the West Virginia Power, a minor league baseball team located in the historic East End. It is popular among capital city visitors and baseball fans for its downtown location and open-air feel.
- ✓ **American Mountain Theater in Elkins** — In July 2007, the American Mountain Theater opened for business in its new 525-seat state-of-the-art music theater in the historic Railyard in Elkins, thereby becoming the state's first and only "Branson Style" family music, comedy and variety show. A cast of 11 seasoned entertainers treat visitors to country, gospel, bluegrass and patriotic music as well as light-hearted comedic impersonations of popular entertainers. Dance numbers also are included in the show, along with clean family comedy that will leave you feeling fine and totally entertained. The performers bring audiences the freshest sound in the mountains.
- ✓ **Berkeley Springs** — Long before the first Europeans discovered its warm waters, this region was already a famous health spa attracting Native Americans from Canada to the Carolinas. George Washington even slept here. Today, Berkeley Springs offers relaxing spas, unique shops, and local arts.

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- ✓ **Cabela's** — As an outfitter for hunting, fishing, and outdoor activities, Cabela's offers a 175,000 square-foot store in Wheeling. It includes a wildlife museum, a television broadcast studio, three freshwater aquariums totaling 55,000 gallons (stocked with fish native to West Virginia), and 25-seat restaurant with park-like seating that overlooks the entire store.
- ✓ **Casino and Racetracks** — Entertainment is a sure bet at West Virginia's racetracks as two of four facilities now offer table games such as blackjack, poker, and roulette. Hancock County's Mountaineer Casino Racetrack & Resort in Chester includes approximately 3,220 slot machines, a year-round thoroughbred racetrack, an upscale hotel with amenities, golf course, fine dining, a theater and events center, and a convention center. Wheeling Island Racetrack and Gaming Center in Wheeling, Ohio County, features a 151-room hotel, more than 2,400 slot machines, a 550-seat showroom, greyhound racing, casual and fine dining restaurants, a food court and gift shop. Kanawha County's Tri-State Racetrack & Gaming Center in Nitro will start to offer table games in 2008 to complement the already 90,000 square feet of gaming entertainment and 1,800 slots, greyhound racing and dining experiences from snacks to four-course meals.
- ✓ **Chief Logan Lodge, Hotel and Conference Center** — The newest lodging addition to the West Virginia State Parks system, this facility sits along the heavily traveled Corridor G near Logan. It offers a 75-room lodge with many amenities. The facility is close to trailheads for the Hatfield-McCoy Trails system.
- ✓ **Civil War Heritage Trail** — West Virginia had the misfortune of being in the middle of the Civil War, literally torn between the North and South, and the territory that now is the state changed hands almost daily during the war. New tourist signage marks the location of key Civil War sites and helps interpret West Virginia's unique history, including Droop Mountain Battlefield and the boyhood home of Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.
- ✓ **Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences** — Located in the historic East End of Charleston, Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences includes a performance hall, art, a science and children's interactive museum, and a large-format film theater and planetarium.
- ✓ **Coal Heritage Trail** — Visitors and historians can experience life as it was in the coal camps of Appalachia on the Coal Heritage Trail in West Virginia. The scenic byway winds through southern West Virginia's rugged mountains and valleys, which contain remnants of the early 20th century coal boom, including the millionaire mansions in Bramwell and the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine. In April 2008, the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine will unveil a \$3.5 million makeover, the largest renovation and expansion project in 45 years. The transformation includes a new visitor and interpretive center designed to replicate a coal camp company store, new vehicle and pedestrian areas, better access from the interstate and outdoor exhibits. When the facility is reopened, veteran miners will resume daily tours of the authentic coal mine and the facility.
- ✓ **Centennial Celebration of Mother's Day** — In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Mother's Day, West Virginia will host a series of events throughout the state in 2008 to honor the occasion. This nationally-celebrated day of remembrance originated with Anna Jarvis, who dedicated her life to the establishment of Mother's Day. With her persistence, Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton launched the observance of a general memorial day for all mothers on May 10, 1908. Today, Mother's Day is observed nationwide on the second Sunday in May. It is a time to reflect, honor and remember the women in our lives who have nurtured us.
- ✓ **The Greenbrier Resort** — The Greenbrier is a AAA Five-Diamond, award-winning resort nestled on 6,500 acres in the scenic Allegheny Mountains in White Sulphur Springs. This world-renowned getaway offers more than 50 activities, including three 18-hole championship golf courses, a golf academy, a gallery of fine shops,

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and a host of traditional amenities that have distinguished the resort for more than 200 years. Rejuvenated with a \$50 million renovation, The Greenbrier now offers a new level of luxury. This includes the debut of the new restaurant, Hemisphere, and new lounge, 38°80. The resort retained its classic architecture and impeccable service, while upgrading amenities such as electronic key card locks, new bed linens and flat-screen televisions in all 721 rooms.

✓ **Harpers Ferry** — In addition to its fabulous scenery, Harpers Ferry was the site of the first successful application of interchangeable manufacture, the arrival of the first successful American Railroad, John Brown's attack on slavery, the largest surrender of Federal troops during the Civil War, and the education of former slaves in one of the earliest integrated schools in the United States. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park also is the site of the Niagara Movement, the first major civil rights organization of the 20th century.

✓ **Hatfield-McCoy Trails** — The Hatfield-McCoy Trails system draws beginner to expert all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts and thrill seekers for more than 500 miles of the East Coast's biggest and best ATV trails coursing through the mountains of southern West Virginia. The popularity of the new system has resulted in new tourism-related developments near the trailheads, easily accessible after a short drive from Charleston. Opened in March 2007, the new Indian Ridge Trail system starts at the Ashland Trail Head and stretches to McDowell County in southern West Virginia. The Indian Ridge Trail system adds 55 new miles of trail to the many miles already in operation.

✓ **Lost World Caverns and Organ Cave** — For the adventurous at heart there is Lost World Caverns. These caverns were once home to the prehistoric cave bear and offer wild caving adventures for those eager to explore the cave's narrow passages away from the normal tour. Organ Cave is less than five miles from Lewisburg and is the 22nd largest cave in the world. With more than 200 known, yet unexplored passageways, Organ Cave is still largely uncharted territory.

✓ **National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank**—Home of the Green Bank Telescope, the world's largest moveable radio telescope, researchers study the universe through natural radio emissions.



The Greenbrier Resort



National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank

✓ **New River Gorge National River** — Encompassing more than 70,000 acres of land along the New River, this national park protects 53 miles of free-flowing water. The gorge, carved by the world's second-oldest river, has been dubbed the "Grand Canyon of the East."

✓ **Oglebay Resort and the Winter Festival of Lights** — Oglebay is a 1,700-acre resort with abundant recreational activities, well-appointed accommodations, a zoo, gardens, three golf courses, downhill ski area, and shops nestled in the hills surrounding Wheeling. In 2007, Oglebay completed a \$15 million expansion and renovation project to the Wilson Lodge, which included the addition of a new guest wing with 56 deluxe rooms

Appendix A/State Profile Recreation and Culture

and suites as well as the remodeling of 212 existing rooms at the lodge. Home to America's largest light show, the Winter Festival of Lights covers more than 300 acres. The festival has been listed on the American Bus Association's Top International Event and was recently listed as one of the top 200 events in the country by Discover America.

- ✓ **Snowshoe Mountain Resort** — Named one of the top ski resorts in the Southeast, Snowshoe Mountain offers a Western-style ski village with first-rate accommodations, specialty shops, gourmet eateries and excellent slopes for a range of skiing experiences. Snowshoe opened the 2007-2008 ski season with three new trails, which brings the total to 60 trails. The resort also includes two terrain parks, two terrain gardens, 14 lifts, night skiing and snow tubing. The 1,500-foot drop stands among the biggest verticals in the area.
- ✓ **Stonewall Resort** — This resort sits along the shore of the state's second-largest impoundment, Stonewall Jackson Lake, and features an Arnold Palmer-designed championship golf course and clubhouse, lodge, deluxe cottages, houseboat rentals, spa, restaurant and 125-passenger excursion boat for dinner and sightseeing cruises.
- ✓ **Tamarack** — Tamarack is the nation's first and only statewide collection of handmade craft, art, and cuisine showcasing "The Best of West Virginia" from hand-carved furniture to glass, from pottery to Appalachian quilts, and more. Tamarack offers regional specialty foods and products, as well as performances, craft demonstrations, shopping, theater, art gallery, and food court managed by The Greenbrier.
- ✓ **West Virginia Scenic Railroads** — West Virginia features more than 80 railroad attractions, including the world-famous Cass Scenic Railroad State Park, the Mountain State Mystery Train and New River Gorge excursions. There are also favorites like the Potomac Eagle excursions, on which passengers enjoy a 90 percent chance of seeing a bald eagle, in addition to the Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad. West Virginia is steeped in railroad traditions, and a number of historic facilities mark this heritage.

(This is by no means a complete list. There are numerous local, state, and national parks, as well as a plethora of fairs and festivals held every year across the state. Information on any of these activities is available by calling the West Virginia Division of Tourism toll-free at 1-800-CALL WVA or connecting to their Web site at <www.callwva.com>. The Web site for West Virginia state parks is <www.wvstateparks.com>.)

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Form of Government

West Virginia has a constitutional representative government with three distinct branches.

Legislative Branch

Senators are elected to four-year terms with half of the seats up for election every two years. All members of the House of Delegates are up for election every two years. State lawmakers must be United States citizens and eligible to vote. A delegate must be at least 18 years old and a resident of his/her district for one year, while a senator must be at least 25 years old and a resident of the state for five years. If a legislator moves out of his/her district, the seat becomes vacant.

If a vacancy occurs in either house of the Legislature, the governor appoints an individual of the same political party as the departing member to fill the seat until the next general election.

Senatorial districts	17
Delegate districts	58
Congressional districts	3
Members of House of Delegates	100
Members of the Senate	34

Executive Branch

West Virginia's Constitution provides for six elected officials in the executive branch of government:

Governor	Attorney General
Auditor	Commissioner of Agriculture
Secretary of State	Treasurer

A governor is elected for a term of four years. Having served during all or any part of two consecutive terms, he or she is then ineligible for the office of governor during any part of the term immediately following the second of the two consecutive terms. The terms of the other five elected officials are four years without term limitations.

Because West Virginia does not have a lieutenant governor, the next two officials in the line of succession are the senate president and the speaker of the house of delegates.

Judicial Branch

As of January 1, 1976, West Virginia created a unified court system, uniting all state courts (except municipal courts) into a single system supervised and administered by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. This system was comprised of only the Supreme Court of Appeals, circuit courts, and magistrate courts. However, at the beginning of 2002, Family Courts were added to the judicial system.

The Supreme Court of Appeals is West Virginia's highest court and the court of last resort. West Virginia is one of only eleven states with a single appellate court. The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia is the busiest appellate court of its type in the United States. There are two terms of the Court each year. The five justices are elected in partisan elections to 12-year terms. Justices must have practiced law for at least ten years. The position of chief justice is determined annually by vote of the Court. The Governor appoints justices to fill vacancies.

West Virginia is divided into 31 circuits with 66 circuit judges. A circuit may range in size from one county with seven judges to eleven counties with one judge. Although a circuit is made up of from one to four counties, each county has a courthouse where the circuit judge presides. Circuit judges are elected in partisan elections to eight-year terms and must have practiced law for at least five years. The Governor appoints judges to fill vacancies.

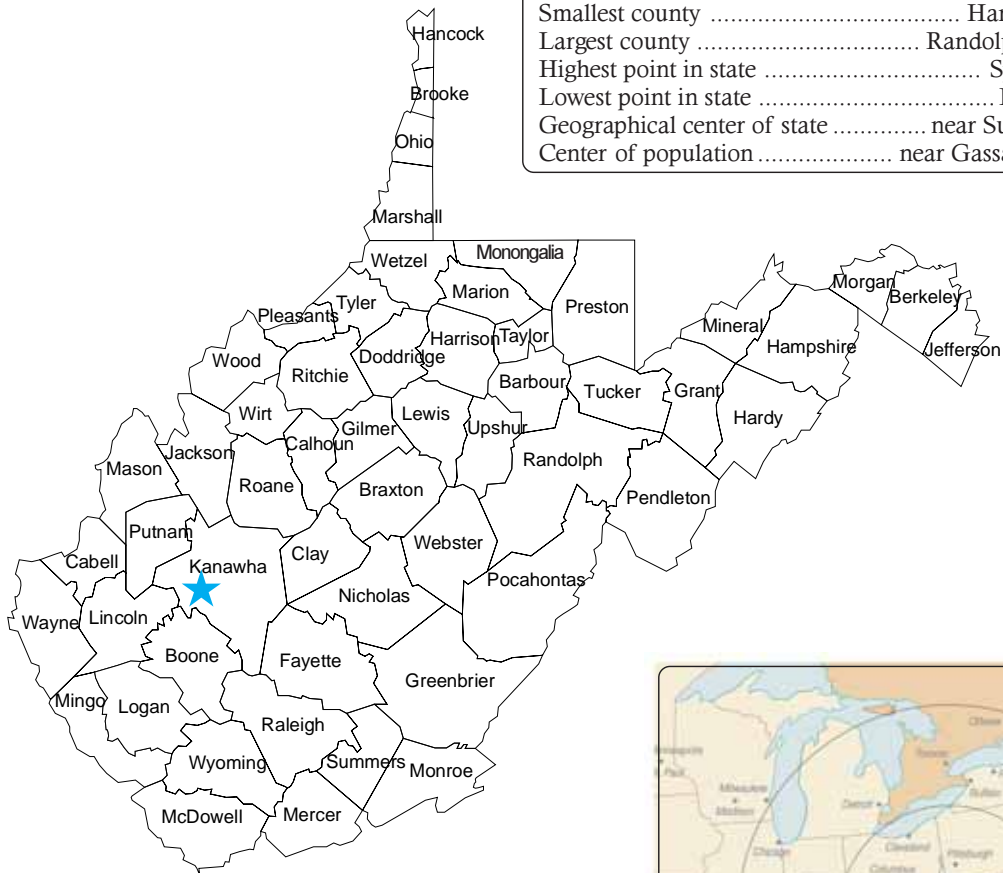
There are 158 magistrates statewide, with at least two in every county and ten in the largest county. The circuit courts hear appeals of magistrate court cases. Magistrates run for four-year terms in partisan elections and are not required to be lawyers. Circuit judges appoint magistrates to fill vacancies.

There are 35 family court judges serving 26 family court circuits. Family court judges were elected in partisan elections for the first time in 2002. Their initial terms are for six years; subsequent terms will be for eight years.

Geography

West Virginia has an mean altitude of 1,500 feet, giving it the highest average altitude east of the Mississippi.

Area (square miles) land and water	24,231
Counties	55
Municipalities	234
State capital	Charleston, Kanawha County
Youngest county in state	Mingo (1895)
Oldest county	Hampshire (1754)
Smallest county	Hancock (area 88 sq. mi.)
Largest county	Randolph (area 1,040 sq. mi.)
Highest point in state	Spruce Knob (4,861 ft.)
Lowest point in state	Harpers Ferry (247 ft.)
Geographical center of state	near Sutton, Braxton County
Center of population	near Gassaway, Braxton County



West Virginia experiences four distinct seasons. In the low-lying areas and valleys, including the western regions of the state and the Eastern Panhandle, winters are mild and summers are warm. In the central, more mountainous areas of the state, particularly the Potomac Highlands, winters are colder, with a greater probability of snow, and summers are mild. (The Potomac Highlands is an area comprised of Mineral, Hampshire, Tucker, Grant, Hardy, Randolph, Pendleton, and Pocahontas counties.)

Precipitation across the state averages 40 to 60 inches per year. Snowfall averages 20 to 25 inches per year in most of the state, except for the Potomac Highlands region, which receives significantly more.



Appendix A/State Profile

Demographics and Economics

Population, Income, and Age

Calendar Years 1997-2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Population (in thousands)										
West Virginia	1,819	1,815	1,811	1,807	1,801	1,804	1,810	1,812	1,816	1,818
Change	-0.16%	-0.22%	-0.22%	-0.22%	-0.33%	0.17%	0.33%	0.11%	0.22%	0.11%
National	273,368	276,553	279,731	282,193	285,107	287,984	290,850	293,656	296,410	299,398
Change	1.20%	1.17%	1.15%	0.88%	1.03%	1.01%	1.00%	0.96%	0.94%	1.01%
Total Personal Income										
West Virginia (in thousands)	\$35,004	\$36,721	\$37,557	\$39,582	\$41,902	\$43,311	\$43,342	\$45,731	\$47,955	51,039
Change	4.11%	4.91%	2.28%	5.39%	5.86%	3.36%	0.07%	5.51%	4.86%	6.43%
National (in billions)	\$6,915	\$7,423	\$7,802	\$8,430	\$8,724	\$8,882	\$9,169	\$9,711	\$10,284	10,966
Change	6.19%	7.35%	5.11%	8.05%	3.49%	1.81%	3.23%	5.91%	5.90%	6.63%
Per Capita Personal Income										
West Virginia	\$19,243	\$20,226	\$20,729	\$21,899	\$23,261	\$24,002	\$23,941	\$24,962	\$26,029	28,067
Change	4.33%	5.11%	2.49%	5.64%	6.22%	3.19%	-0.25%	4.26%	4.27%	7.83%
National	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,574	\$30,810	\$31,463	\$33,090	\$34,495	36,629
Change	4.79%	6.11%	3.93%	6.82%	2.44%	0.77%	2.12%	5.17%	4.25%	6.19%
Median age—West Virginians	38.1	38.5	38.9	39.0	39.3	39.5	39.9	40.2	40.7	40.7

Principal Employers

Current Year and Nine Years Ago

As of June 30, 2006

As of June 30, 1997

Major West Virginia Employers	Number of Employees	Major West Virginia Employers	Number of Employees
State of West Virginia	40,000-49,999	State of West Virginia	35,000-39,999
Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.	10,000-19,999	Federal Government	20,000-24,999
West Virginia University Hospitals/ United Hospitals	5,000-9,999	Weirton Steel Corporation	5,000-5,999
Charleston Area Medical Center	5,000-9,999	Charleston Area Medical Center	5,000-5,999
Kroger	2,500-4,999	Kroger	4,000-4,999
CSX/CSX Hotels Inc.		Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	4,000-4,999
(The Greenbrier and railroad)	2,500-4,999	E I DuPont De Nemours	3,000-3,999
American Electric Power	2,500-4,999	Union Carbide Corporation	2,000-2,999
Lowe's Home Centers, Inc.	1,000-2,499	Ravenswood Aluminum	2,000-2,999
Consolidation Coal Company	1,000-2,499	West Virginia University Hospitals	2,000-2,999
Verizon	1,000-2,499	Kmart Corporation	2,000-2,999
St. Mary's Hospital	1,000-2,499	Appalachian Power Company	2,000-2,999

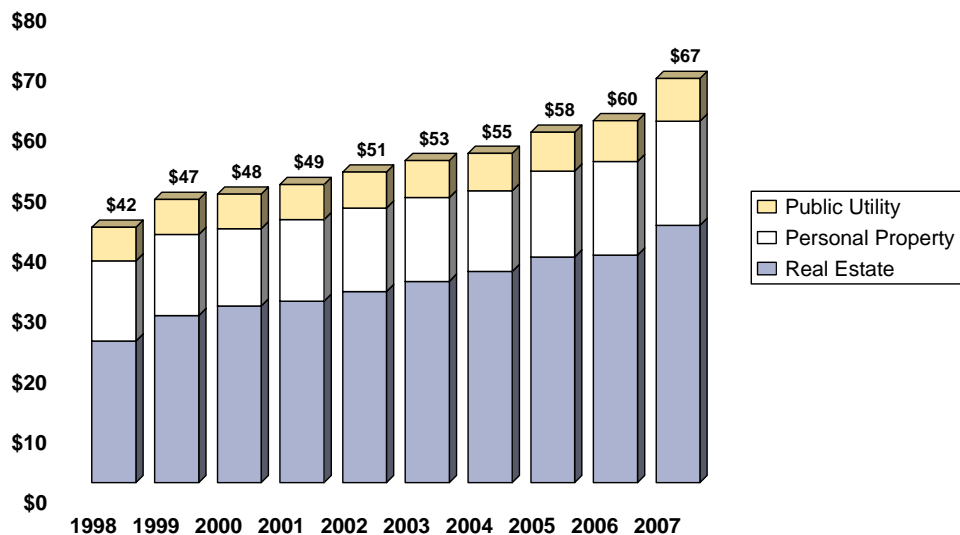
Property Values

Property subject to property tax in West Virginia is to be revalued annually. All properties, with the exception of farms and managed timberland, are to be assessed at 60% of their actual market value. Total assessed valuations for Tax Year 2007 came to \$67.04 billion. The statewide average levy rate for all property was 1.91% of assessed value.

Appendix A/State Profile Demographics and Economics

A major portion of the expense of local government units is met from the proceeds of taxes levied upon real and personal property. The property tax is administered by officials of local taxing authorities (municipalities, county school boards, and county governments), as well as by officials of a number of state agencies. Less than one-half of one percent of the property tax collected goes to state government. For example, of property taxes levied for FY 2007, the State received 0.42%, the counties 25.70%, the school boards 66.02%, and the municipalities 7.86%.

West Virginia Taxable Assessed Property Values (In Billions)



Source: Department of Revenue, Property Tax Division
1 The tax on Class I intangibles is being phased out over a six-year period beginning in 1998, when over a 50% reduction in Class I intangible assessments reduced personal property valuations by \$1.0 billion.

Economic Base

The state ranks second in the nation in coal production, and coal is mined in 28 of West Virginia's 55 counties. Annual coal production was 119 million tons in 2006, 44% of which comes from underground mines. West Virginia also is a leader in the chemical, steel, aluminum, natural gas, oil and hardwood lumber industries. The state's diverse economic base also includes the energy, plastics, transportation equipment, biomedical technology, and distribution industries. West Virginia is one of the largest producers of oil and natural gas east of the Mississippi River. It has produced significant amounts of natural gas in the Appalachian Basin. Natural gas production in 2006 was 226 billion cubic feet, and oil production in 2006 was 1.7 million barrels.

West Virginia's forest products industry employs over 37,000 residents and contributes 5.4 billion dollars, directly and indirectly to the state's economy. Forests contribute an additional three billion dollars to the state's economy by other uses such as forest based recreation and tourism, fruits, nuts, medical plants such as ginseng, and Christmas trees. The jobs created by the forest products industry are dependent on the 12 million acres of forests, which are 90% privately owned by 260,000 landowners. According to the 2000 inventory conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, the state remains 78% forested, even though the timber harvest has doubled since the last inventory. Annual growth exceeds harvest by 30% and species of oak comprise 48% of harvested wood. West Virginia is the third most heavily forested state in the nation and has more total hardwood volume than any other state except Pennsylvania.

Appendix A/State Profile Demographics and Economics

West Virginia has 21,200 primarily family-owned and operated farms, generating nearly a half-billion dollars worth of products annually. Although the state is ranked 37th in population and 41st in geographical size, it ranks 10th in apple production, 16th in peach production, 14th in turkey production and 16th in broiler chicken production. State agribusinesses are an expanding element of the state's economy, annually producing \$100 million worth of value-added, West Virginia Grown products. Nearly all of these companies are locally owned and operated and inject a large portion of their net revenue back into the local economy in the form of wages and business expenses. West Virginia products are recognized for their high quality and improve the image of the Mountain State across the country and throughout the world. They also dovetail nicely with the state's tourism industry, as research indicates that vacationers seek unique culinary experiences when they travel.

A West Virginia Division of Tourism study released in 2007 shows that travel spending by visitors in the state was more than \$3.97 billion in the 2006 calendar year, which is an increase of 6.1% from 2005. Visitors who stayed overnight in commercial lodging facilities spent \$1.2 billion on their trips, while day travelers spent \$1.9 billion. Visitor spending in West Virginia directly supported 44,000 jobs with earnings of \$854 million in 2006.

Outdoor-related recreational opportunities provided or regulated by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources have an estimated economic impact of more than one billion dollars each year. Those activities include hunting, fishing, state parks and forests, wildlife viewing, whitewater rafting, and recreational boating. These activities make up a major portion of the state's growing tourism industry.

A total of 940,213 various license privileges (fishing, hunting, and trapping) were sold totaling \$12,432,003 in 2005. To date, West Virginia has 40,162 adult lifetime holders and 10,035 infant lifetime holders. A recent study shows they produce a more than \$105 million economic impact each year.

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Miscellaneous—State Symbols

State Flag

The state flag was officially adopted by the Legislature on March 7, 1929, by Senate Joint Resolution 18.

Prominently displayed on the pure white field of today's flag and emblazoned in proper colors is a coat of arms, the lower half of which is wreathed by rhododendron, the State Flower. Across the top, lettered on a ribbon, is the constitutional designation "State of West Virginia." The white field is bordered on four sides by a strip of blue, and, for parade purposes, all but the staff side are to be trimmed with gold fringe.



Great Seal of West Virginia



The great seal of West Virginia, which also is the coat of arms, was adopted by the Legislature on September 26, 1863, and symbolizes the principal pursuits and resources of West Virginia. Described briefly, the obverse side of the seal bears the legend "State of West Virginia," together with the motto, "Montani Semper Liberi" (Mountaineers Are Always Free); a farmer stands to the left and a miner to the right of a large ivy-draped rock bearing the date of the state's admission to the Union. In front of the rock are two hunters' rifles upon which rests a Phrygian cap or "cap of liberty."

Joseph H. Diss Debar, of Doddridge county, designed the state seal in 1863 at the request of the first West Virginia Legislature.

Official Colors

Old gold and blue were designated as official state colors by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20, adopted by the Legislature on March 8, 1963.

Official Day

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln approved the Statehood Bill for West Virginia on the condition that it would gradually abolish slavery. West Virginia was proclaimed a state on April 20, 1863, with the bill becoming effective sixty days later on June 20, 1863. "West Virginia Day" became a legal holiday by Chapter 59, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 1927.

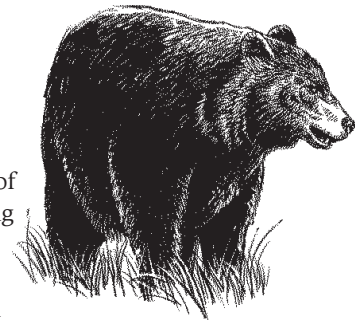
State Songs

"The West Virginia Hills," "This Is My West Virginia," and "West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home" were designated as the official state songs of West Virginia, each ranking equally with the others in official status, by House Concurrent Resolution No. 19, adopted by the Legislature on February 28, 1963.

Appendix A/State Profile Miscellaneous—State Symbols

State Animal

The black bear (*Euractos Americanus*) was selected as the official state animal of West Virginia by a poll of students, teachers, and sportsmen conducted by the Department of Natural Resources in 1954-55 and officially adopted by the Legislature in 1973 by House Concurrent Resolution No. 6. It is the only species of bear found in the state. While commonly referred to as the “black bear,” its coloring is actually deeply tinted with brown. Its habitat in West Virginia is primarily in the eastern mountain region. A litter ususally consists of one or two cubs, rarely three, each weighing about eight ounces at birth. The adult reaches an average maximum weight of 250 pounds.



State Bird

The cardinal (*Richmondena Cardinalis*) was made West Virginia’s official bird by House Concurrent Resolution No. 12, adopted by the Legislature on March 7, 1949, authorizing a vote by pupils of public schools and civic organizations. The male of the species is a rich scarlet with a mask and shading of black, while the young birds and females are a less brilliant color. The adult bird measures approximately eight inches long. It ranges from New York State to the Gulf of Mexico and as far west as Oklahoma.



State Butterfly

The monarch butterfly was declared the official butterfly of West Virginia by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11, adopted by the Legislature on March 1, 1995.



State Fish

The brook trout was designated the state fish by House Concurrent Resolution No. 6, adopted in 1973 following a poll of sportsmen who favored the brook trout. The brook trout is a native West Virginia species.



State Flower

The *Rhododendron Maximum*, or “Big Laurel,” was made the official state flower of West Virginia by House Joint Resolution No. 19, adopted by the Legislature on January 29, 1903, following a recommendation by the governor and a vote by the pupils of public schools. The rhododendron is a shrub of the heath family and may be recognized by its large evergreen leaves and delicate pale pink or white bloom, mottled with either red or yellow flecks.



Appendix A/State Profile Miscellaneous—State Symbols



State Fruit

The Golden Delicious apple was designated as the official state fruit by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 7, adopted by the Legislature on February 20, 1995. This apple variety was discovered by Anderson Mullins in Clay County, West Virginia, in 1905. The plain apple had been previously designated as the official state fruit by House Concurrent Resolution No. 56, adopted March 7, 1972.

State Gem

The state gem, so designated by House Concurrent Resolution No. 39, March 10, 1990, is technically not a gemstone, but rather the silicified Mississippian fossil coral *Lithostrotionella*, preserved as the siliceous mineral chalcedony. It is found in the Hillsdale Limestone in portions of Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties and is often cut and polished for jewelry and for display.

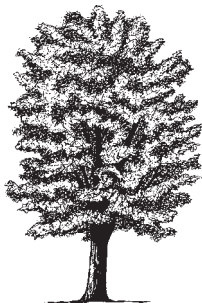
State Insect

The honeybee became West Virginia's official state insect in 2002 by the Legislature's Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9. In addition to its flavorful honey, the honeybee pollinates many of the state's most important crops including fruits, vegetables, and grasses. Its activity produces more benefit to the state's economy than any other insect. The honeybee has six legs, four wings, and its coloring ranges from dark yellow to gold with three dark bands on its abdomen.



State Soil

The state soil is Monongahela silt loam, adopted by concurrent resolution in 1997, making West Virginia the twelfth state to have an official state soil.



State Tree

The sugar maple, *Acer Saccharum*, was made West Virginia's official tree by House Concurrent Resolution No. 12, adopted by the Legislature on March 7, 1949, authorizing a vote by pupils of public schools and civic organizations. It produces an excellent wood for future use as well as maple syrup. A single tree can be 70 to 120 feet high, has a five-lobed leaf and a small wing-shaped pod, and produces two to three pounds of sugar when "sugared off."

Appendix A/State Profile

Miscellaneous—Famous West Virginians

Randy Barnes (1966-) perhaps the world's greatest shot-putter. He holds both the outdoor and indoor world records and was a gold medalist in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He grew up in St. Albans, Kanawha County.

Pearl Buck (1892-1973), American novelist, born in Hillsboro, Pocahontas County. She was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature and the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Many of her more than 85 books sympathetically portray China and its people.

Robert Carlyle Byrd (1917-) was elected in 2006 to a ninth consecutive term in the U.S. Senate. He was the majority leader of the Senate from 1977 to 1981 and from 1987 to 1989. Byrd is from Sophia, Raleigh County.

Bob Denver (1935-2005), who played “Gilligan” on the TV series *Gilligan's Island* and “Maynard G. Krebs” on the TV series *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*, lived near Princeton, Mercer County. His wife Dreama is from West Virginia.

Jennifer Garner (1972-) starred in the ABC series *Alias*. She has appeared in films such as *Pearl Harbor* and *Mr. Magoo* and has had a series regular roles on television. She was born in Houston, but grew up in the Charleston area and graduated from George Washington High School.

Homer H. Hickam, Jr. (1943-) is the author of *Rocket Boys: A Memoir*, the story of his life in the little town of Coalwood, McDowell County, that inspired the number one bestseller and award-winning movie *October Sky*.

Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson (1824-1863) was a general in the Confederacy during the Civil War and is considered among the most skillful tacticians in military history. He was born in Clarksburg (then Virginia).

Anna Jarvis (1864-1948) considered the founder of Mother's Day. Following the death of her own mother in 1905, she began campaigning to have one day a year set aside to honor mothers. In 1914 President Wilson signed a proclamation declaring Mother's Day a holiday. She was born near Grafton, Taylor County.

Don Jesse Knotts (1924-2006), television and movie actor, born in Morgantown (Monongalia County) to a farm family he described as “dirt poor.” He attended West Virginia University where he majored in speech, hoping to become a teacher. Knotts played the role of “Barney Fife” on the *Andy Griffith Show*.

Captain Jon A. McBride (1943-) became an astronaut in August 1979 and piloted the Challenger when it was launched on October 5, 1984. He was a Republican candidate for Governor of West Virginia in 1996. McBride was born in Charleston, Kanawha County.

Kathy Mattea (1959-), country music star, born in South Charleston and grew up in Cross Lanes, Kanawha County.

John Forbes Nash Jr. (1928-), described as a mathematical genius who essentially lost 30 years of his life to paranoid schizophrenia and who re-emerged into public glory (once the disease was in remission) to receive the 1994 Nobel Prize in Economics for a brilliant doctoral dissertation begun in 1950 (from *A Beautiful Mind*, a biography of Nash by Sylvia Nasar that inspired a movie of the same name). Nash was born and reared in Bluefield, Mercer County.

Mary Lou Retton (1968-), gymnast who won four medals in the 1984 Summer Olympics, including the gold in the all-around gymnastics competition. She is from Fairmont, Marion County.

Jerome Alan “Jerry” West (1938-), a professional basketball star for the Los Angeles Lakers, was chosen one of the 50 greatest National Basketball Association basketball players in 1996. He was born in Cabin Creek, Kanawha County.

Charles Elwood “Chuck” Yeager (1923-) became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound in October 1947 and the first person to fly more than twice the speed of sound in December 1953. He was born at Myra in Lincoln County.

This is just a sampling of the many famous West Virginians. For a more extensive list, visit Jeff Miller's Famous West Virginians page at <<http://members.aol.com/jeff560/westvirginia.html> >.

Appendix A/State Profile
Miscellaneous—Interesting Facts



The third-largest diamond ever found in the United States, the “Punch” Jones Diamond, was found near Peterstown, in Monroe County within one-half mile of the Virginia state line. It has been suggested that the diamond actually occurred in rocks in Virginia and that erosion carried it to the West Virginia side of the state line. There are no other likely sites for diamonds in this state.

No other precious gems are known to have been found in West Virginia. Among the few gemstones found in West Virginia are some opal, some types of quartz, and two coal or coal-like minerals which, though softer than most gemstones, are cut, polished, and carved into jewelry.

A variety of the yellow apple, the Golden Delicious, originated in Clay County. The original Grimes Golden Apple Tree was discovered in 1775 near Wellsburg.

The first steamboat was launched by James Rumsey in the Potomac River at New Mecklenburg (Shepherdstown) on December 3, 1787.

On February 14, 1824, at Harpers Ferry, John S. Gallaher published the “Ladies Garland,” one of the first papers in the nation devoted mainly to the interests of women.

One of the first suspension bridges in the world was completed in Wheeling in November 1849.

Bailey Brown, the first Union soldier killed in the Civil War, died on May 22, 1861, at Fetterman, Taylor County.



The first rural free mail delivery began in Charles Town, October 6, 1896, then spread across the United States.

A naval battle was fought in West Virginia waters during the Civil War. United States Navy armored steamers were actively engaged in the Battle of Buffington Island near Ravenswood on July 19, 1863.

Mother’s Day was first observed at Andrews Church in Grafton on May 10, 1908.

Outdoor advertising had its origin in Wheeling about 1908 when the Block Brothers Tobacco Company painted bridges and barns with the wording: “Treat Yourself to the Best, Chew Mail Pouch.”

West Virginia was the first state to have a sales tax. It became effective July 1, 1921.

Mrs. Minnie Buckingham Harper, a member of the House of Delegates by appointment in 1928, was the first African American woman to become a member of a legislative body in the United States.

West Virginia’s Memorial Tunnel was the first in the nation to be monitored by television. It opened November 8, 1954.

West Virginia was the first state to use new technology to “measure” and store electronically the face and fingertip images of licensed drivers. Because this recorded information is unique to each individual, these images can prevent stolen identity should a driver’s license be lost or taken.

The longest steel arch bridge (1,700 feet) in the United States is the New River Gorge Bridge in Fayette County.

Organ Cave, near Ronceverte, is the third largest cave in the United States and the largest in the state.

Sources

The information contained in this chapter has been gathered from a variety of sources, including the following:

U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

West Virginia Independent Colleges & Universities

West Virginia state government:

West Virginia Legislature

West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals

Department of Agriculture

Department of Commerce/Communications

Department of Education

Department of Education and the Arts

Division of Culture and History

Library Commission

Department of Health and Human Resources

Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety

Division of Criminal Justice

State Fire Commission

West Virginia State Police

Department of Revenue

Tax Division

Department of Transportation

Higher Education Policy Commission